

Date: May 17, 2006

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Place: MSU Extension Bay County, Third Floor, Large Conference Room

Members Present:

Philip Engelhardt

Joyce Gavord

Kari Gulvas

Robert Kernstock

Marybeth Laisure

Lyle LeCronier

Bill Palmer

Douglas Rise

Sara Marks

Elaine Sobieray

Chris Wazny

Members Excused:

Patrick Beson

George Heron

Michelle Lesniak

Delicia Newman

Ray VanDreissche

Barb Wishowski

Others Present:

Ann Arnold, FCS Extension Educator

Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant

Chris Reisinger, ANR Extension Educator

Jodi Schulz, 4H & Youth Development Extension Educator

Jan Rise, Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator

Robin Wiess, FNP Program Associate

Howard Wetters, County Extension Director

INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Extension Council met at 5:15 p.m. Chair Doug Rise introduced new Council member, Sara Marks. Ms. Marks area of program interest is childhood and youth development. Howard Wetters, CED, stated that Mr. Dennis Curtis has resigned from his seat on Council. Mr. Curtis' area of program interest was the Master Gardener program. A new Extension Council member list was passed out. There was one update addition for Dr. Engelhardt, which will be supplied at the next regular meeting.

At 5:20 p.m. Ms. Robin Wiess, FNP program associate, and Mr. Chris Reisinger, ANR Extension educator, were introduced. Together they gave a brief presentation on Project FRESH. Project FRESH is a cooperative, coupon-based program that offers fresh produce via local farm markets to WIC (Women, Infant, and Children) participants. Ms. Wiess provided a PowerPoint presentation to Council on the nutrition education component that MSU Extension delivers to participants. Mr. Reisinger talked about his administrative component as market master, which deals more directly with the farm vendors and the Michigan Department of Community Health.

After the presentation Mr. Wetters gave Council a more in-depth account of Mr. Reisinger's background, as he had just filled the long vacant ANR position May 1. Mr. Reisinger brings a non-traditional view to ag and excellent communication skills, Mr.

Wetters stated. He has a background with Extension, working two years in North Carolina in the ag area. Fruit crops are his current area. Mr. Reisinger gave some of his thoughts on agriculture marketing and promotion and revitalizing the local farmers' market.

Mr. Wetters informed Council about a \$2,000 collaborative grant opportunity between MSU Extension and Saginaw Bay WIN (Watershed Initiative Network), which will allow us to offer vegetable gardening to 11 families in the area. The grant's focus is children and their families to increase physical activity and fresh produce consumption by starting or expanding an existing vegetable garden. Ms. Wiess explained the participant eligibility requirements and the nutrition educational component to Council. Ms. Jane Rise, Master Gardener volunteer program coordinator, and Mr. Reisinger talked about the gardening education delivery. This project runs now through September 2006.

Mr. Wetters reviewed the report containing six goals that Council helped to identify during the issues identification process held this winter (handout). He thanked Council, again, for participating in this process. The results are also available on our MSU Extension Bay County Website; whereby, other counties issues can be viewed and compared. Processes like this help us here at the local level, and campus too, set programming goals to fill gaps in local services and educational needs. He would like Council to consider adopting this report at the next meeting, after they had a chance to review.

Other programs area events were presented. Ms. Ann Arnold, FCS Extension educator, has several upcoming Better Kid Care (BKC) programs like the BKC 36-hour training, Relative Care, and CPR scheduled from June through September in several local counties. In addition to programming with on-going partners like YWCA and Parmeter House, staff participated in a hands on activity fair and the local community baby shower where 300 children and 95 adults attended, respectively.

Mr. Wetters welcomed Ms. Jodi Schulz, 4H Extension educator, back from her leave and expressed congratulations on the birth of her twins, Susie and JJ. Ms. Schulz gave an update of 4H activities, which included local club fund-raising activities, Exploration Days on campus, United Way collaboration for Day of Caring in September, and the Shaggy Spring Fling horse event. Ms. Schulz is gearing up for fair in August and invited Council to attend all fair events. Information on the annual livestock auction (handout) will be sent out to all closer to fair week, August 7-12. Mr. Chris Wazny talked about the soup supper 4H fundraiser planned in October; more info to follow.

Mr. Reisinger talked about his thoughts on the direction that agriculture could go in the future for both of the counties he directly serves. His appointment split is 80/20 in Bay and Arenac counties, respectively. He is currently transitioning into the variety trails plots.

Ms. Rise shared the status on current projects, like the I-75 MDOT rest stop at Linwood. The Master Gardener volunteer recognition banquet held in April was well received, due in part to the guest speaker, Doug Chapman, director of Dow Gardens, and his presentation on native trees. So far this year over 3,500 volunteer hours have been logged. Master Gardeners will work with the gardening grant to mentor participants.

Mr. Wetters talked about the completed Citizen Planner series, which helps bring local officials up-to-speed on new planning and zoning laws that may effect their communities. New series are planned for later this year. CERT training is planned for county employees in June. This is a follow up from the two sessions held in April for resident volunteers. Mr. Wetters reiterated that leadership program development, unique public speaking events, and marketing of Extension were some of the key goals that emerged during the issues identification process.

Mr. Rise reminded Council that the next meeting would be an informal meeting held in August during fair week. It was recognized by Council, but passed without motion, to meet on Thursday, August 10, at 5:30 p.m. for the livestock auction and bidder's reception. More information to be mailed out closer to fair by MSU Extension.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN

- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve the March 15, 2006, meeting minutes.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

WHAT'S NEXT AND FOLLOW UP

- **Extension Council's remaining 2006 meeting date is on November 15, 2006**

Prepared by J. Delestowicz